

MICHAEL R. TURNER

3RD DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
STRATEGIC FORCES

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

ASSISTANT MINORITY WHIP



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

May 11, 2010

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Via Facsimile (202) 418-2806

Mr. Michael Perko

Acting Director, Office of Legislative Affairs

Federal Communications Commission

445 Twelfth Street, SW, Room 8-C445

Washington, DC 20554

Re: Warren County, Ohio

Dear Mr. Perko:

Congressman Mike Turner's office has just received the attached correspondence from Mr. David Gully, County Administrator from Warren County, Ohio, which is located in the 3rd congressional district. Mr. Gully has received phone calls from several churches in the county who have expressed concern over the use of the audio systems after the represented June 12th, 2010 deadline to terminate operation within the 696 and 806 MHz. Mr. Gully represents in his email correspondence to Congressman Turner there are several church organizations that have contacted him indicating the inability to upgrade their wireless systems due to the issue of funding the change.

Please review the attached communiqué and advise accordingly. If this is a correct scenario, are there exemptions for non-profit organizations giving them more time to be in compliance with this new regulation?

I can be reached at (937) 225-2843 if you have questions on this matter. I can also be reached at marty.heide@mail.house.gov. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Marty Heide, Warren County Outreach for
Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

Helde, Marty

From: Russell, Martin T. [Martin.Russell@co.warren.oh.us]
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 2:15 PM
To: Helde, Marty
Cc: Gully, David R.; Pat South; Dave Young; michael.kilburn@co.warren.oh.us
Subject: FW: Issue that affects churches
Attachments: gulldr@co.warren.oh.us.vcf; FCC.pdf

Marty,

Based off our conversation, I have forwarded and attached information regarding the 700 MHz frequency issue facing many area congregations here in Warren County and throughout the region. Please review the information and inquire with the FCC regarding this matter. Thanks and I look forward to your response.



Martin T. Russell
Deputy Director
ML: 513-696-2090
Martin.Russell@co.warren.oh.us

From: Gully, David R.
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 1:30 PM
To: Dave Young (dyoung@youngcapinc.com); Kilburn, C. Michael; Pat South (patsouth@go-concepts.com)
Cc: Russell, Martin T.
Subject: Issue that affects churches

Commissioners,

I want to bring a matter to your attention that will affect all of the churches in our community. This was recently brought to my attention by Terri Hopkin, who runs a religious based Teen Suicide Prevention program in Mason, Ohio.

The FCC recently ruled that organizations that use wireless microphone systems in the 700 MHz frequency bandwidth must stop using that equipment no later than 12 June 2010. Most churches use wireless microphone systems for their services and audio-visual presentations. In Terri's case, 8 of her wireless microphones will need to be replaced at a cost of \$1200.00 each. She has to come up with \$7,200.00 to comply with the FCC's ruling. Most churches will ultimately have to do the same at whatever cost applies to them. They obviously are not happy with this ruling.

When Nextel won the re-banding decision from the FCC, the government ordered Nextel to purchase new radios for our Police and Fire departments at their cost which they are doing. Apparently no such provision was made for churches, which now have to bear the full financial brunt of this decision.

I have having Martin Russell check with Congressman Turner's Office to see if any relief is available for churches and non-profits. If not, this will pose a significant negative impact on their ability to carry out their missions.

Attachment:

Dave Gully
County Administrator
Warren County, Ohio
406 Justice Drive
Lebanon, Oh 45036
Office: 513-695-1255
Cell: 513-635-2650
Fax: 512-695-2054
email: guldre@co.warren.oh.us

700 MHz is Dead. Long Live 700 MHz

1113

Written by Steve LaCerra

On Jan. 15, the FCC came down from the mountain with a stone tablet upon which was scribed "anyone who uses a wireless microphone (or similar device) that operates in the 700 MHz Band will have to stop operating their wireless microphone (or similar device) no later than June 12, 2010."

When the FCC says "similar devices," what they are referring to are wireless instruments, in-car monitoring and intercom systems. In other words, the pro audio industry has been screwed. To read the entire gory story, check out this link: <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/wirelessmicrophones>.

696 to 806 MHz Off Limits

For those of you who weren't paying attention, the FCC has reallocated the frequency range from 696 to 806 MHz. Some of it was set aside for new public safety channels, and a large portion of it was auctioned off to cellular communications companies such as Verizon and ATT who want the bandwidth for broadband delivery to 'smart phones' and similar devices. Where does this leave pro audio? We need to make some rather uncomfortable adjustments.

Item 1: We (pro audio) have been ordered to vacate the 700 MHz band. This means that any wireless gear that you own, operating in the region between 696 and 806 MHz, is illegal to use after June 12, regardless of whether or not you have secured a license. After that date, it's not okay to use this gear, because you will be unlawfully occupying someone else's space. In fact, you may experience interference issues in that range right now, because testing of new services has already started. The FCC takes this very seriously, and so do the service providers who purchased the space. I have heard reports that one provider is traveling through busy areas with scanning equipment, tracking down violators, and sending cease and desist orders.

Item 2: Even if you decide to break the law, you'll have to deal with "white space" devices interfering with your wireless audio. At best, you'll get a dropout here or there, but imagine this scenario: your production manager decides not to replace the gear from last year's tour. You take it on the road, and one night in, say, New York or Los Angeles, your star's wireless ear system picks up a cell phone call in the middle of a show (Spinal Tap anyone?). Oh, you're going to have an awesome conversation in the star's dressing room after the show. Not only do you get to go home for Christmas, but you'll be home in time for the first day of spring too. You must inform your clients that they may need new wireless gear. If they don't go for it, then make it clear you take no responsibility for mishaps.

Item 3: What do you do with your 700 MHz gear? Grrrr. This is very uncomfortable. Some RF manufacturers offer trade-in rebates on 700 MHz systems, facilitating a path to compliant gear. This is a very gracious gesture to help alleviate the fact that the FCC has screwed you, but don't expect a 50 percent discount. The FCC Web site suggests you "remember to recycle any electronic equipment you are discarding. Recycling electronic equipment recovers valuable materials from the circuit boards, metal wiring, leaded glass, and plastics." Oh, I can recycle that

\$1,200 wireless system that is now obsolete. That makes me feel so much better.

Item 3-A: Be kind to small animals and those less fortunate than you. Having 700 MHz gear is akin to having a lifetime supply of blank Betamax tapes. What the heck do you do with them? Oh, now I can see the light bulbs going off, and there's a storm brewing. In this corner: Pro audio geeks telling their friends not to purchase any RF gear via Ebay just because it looks like a great deal. "A \$1,200 wireless mic for \$150? It's a steal!!!" Yeah, but it's a 700 MHz system, and it's illegal to use. Tell your friends.

In the other corner: Darth Vader, ready to dump his 700 MHz gear on Ebay to unsuspecting musicians who don't know better. They buy it and find out in three months that it's useless. Don't go there. It's unethical and it's bad karma. This is why unscrupulous audio guys get electrocuted on outdoor gigs.

Item 4: There are life-safety issues in play here. It's conceivable that your operation of a 700 MHz RF system could interfere with communication between firefighters or police. Are you willing to risk interfering with public safety? I hope not. It's dangerous, and if the FCC finds out that you are doing so, they're going to kick your ass (my interpretation). Looking at it from another angle, there are multimedia shows (some in Vegas come to mind) where wireless systems are used for show control. What if that includes remote control for a chain hoist? Maybe a hoist that lifts an acrobat during a certain part of the show? If that communication takes a poop, the best-case scenario is that the show stops. I don't want to think about the worst-case scenario.

Wha'Cha Gonna Do?

If you still own wireless gear in the 700 MHz range, you have some difficult decisions. Economic times are tough, and no one wants to mothball perfectly good gear. You can continue to use 700 MHz systems after June 12, but at what cost? Maybe if you are in a rural area you can get away with it for a while at the risk of occasional interference. If you are in a metro area, you won't be so lucky. You'll be interfered with, and you'll be interfering with someone else.

Of course, there are always alternatives. Manufacturers have already marketed systems for less-crowded RF bands (for example the 900 MHz range) and are using refined technology to operate systems in the shrinking bandwidth that is - at the moment - deemed legal for pro audio (470 to 698 MHz). One thing is certain: on June 13, you'd better think carefully before you fire up that rack of wireless mics.



OPERATION OF WIRELESS MICROPHONES IN THE 700 MHz BAND IS PROHIBITED AFTER JUNE 12, 2010

Under a new FCC rule, anyone who uses a wireless microphone (or similar device) that operates in the 700 MHz Band will have to stop operating their wireless microphone (or similar device) no later than June 12, 2010. To see if this law affects your wireless microphone, check our [Manufacturers Equipment List](#).

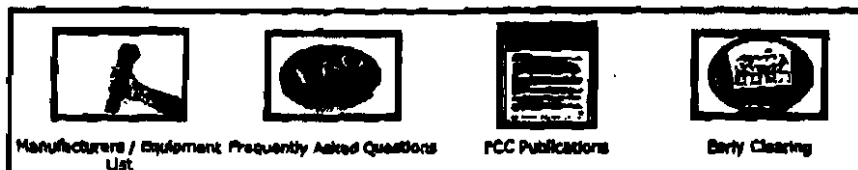
Why did the FCC make this rule?

Certain wireless microphones have operated in frequencies that are needed for public safety. When these microphones were first designed, the frequencies they used were in between the frequencies that television stations used to broadcast television programs. With the completion of the digital television (DTV) transition on June 12, 2009, television stations no longer use the frequencies between 698 and 806 MHz (the 700 MHz Band) for broadcast. These frequencies are now being used by public safety entities (such as police, fire and emergency services) and by commercial providers of wireless services (such as wireless broadband services).

The wireless microphones that had been operating in the old TV broadcast channels can cause harmful interference to these public safety and wireless consumer services. Therefore, all users of wireless microphones (or certain low power auxiliary stations) that operate on any of the frequencies in the 700 MHz band – including both licensed users (under Part 74) and unlicensed users – now have to stop operating in this band.

The FCC is only prohibiting the use of wireless microphones (and similar devices) that operate in the 700 MHz Band. You may continue to use wireless microphones (and similar devices) that operate on other broadcast frequencies. Microphones and other similar devices with cords are not affected by the FCC's decision.

Similar devices to wireless microphones are also known as equipment for "low power auxiliary stations". Typically these devices can transmit over distances of 100 meters. Examples of similar devices include wireless intercoms, wireless in-ear monitors (IEM), wireless audio instrument links, and wireless cueing equipment. (aka "IFB").



For More Information

You can also contact the FCC's Consumer Center for more information about wireless microphones or other communications issues by calling
1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322) voice
1-888-THE-FCC (1-888-835-5322) TTY
1-866-418-0232 fax; or writing to:

Federal Communications Commission
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Consumer Inquiries and Complaints Division
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554.

last reviewed/updated on 02/17/10

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Inventory for Mishpachah, Inc.

(as of November 11, 2009)

ITEM	SERIAL #	REPLACE COST
SOUND EQUIPMENT		
Microphone Base 125.400-176.800	1104960017	\$1200
Microphone Base 189.800 - 191.200	1019980499	\$1200
STAY → Microphone Base 169.505 - 171.905 → STAY	0616990435	\$1200
ZAK → Microphone Base 191.400 - 192.800 → ZAK	0220960654	\$1200
Microphone Base 782-806 MHz	1016020876	\$1200
Microphone Base 782-806 MHz	0131010918	\$1200
Microphone Base 782-806 MHz	1010030059	\$1200
Microphone Base 782-806 MHz	10140440154	\$1200
Microphone Base 782-806 MHz	0131010916	\$1200
Microphone Base 782-806 MHz	0131010917	\$1200
Microphone Base 175.400 - 176.800	0817981400	\$1200
Microphone Base 179.600 - 181.000	0805980558	\$1200
Microphone Base 518 - 542 MHz	0919050382	\$1200
Microphone Base 518 - 542 MHz	0919050390	\$1200
Microphone Base 518 - 542 MHz	0919050389	\$1200
Microphone Base 518 - 542 MHz	0919050388	\$1200
Microphone Base 518 - 542 MHz	0919050385	\$1200
Microphone Base 518 - 542 MHz	0919050387	\$1200
Microphone Base 518 - 542 MHz	0918050384	\$1200
Microphone Base 518 - 542 MHz	0919050383	\$1200
Microphone Base 195.800-197.200	0616990434	\$1200
CD Player	0264222	\$200
Mini Disk Player	8810696	\$800
Bandwidth Simultaneous Digital Effects	QV1111825	\$500
Computer Controlled Midi Graphic Equalizer	08800377	\$200
Peavey Sound Board	8A-03649151	\$700
Mackie Sound Board 8 Bus Audio Mixing Console	H16768	\$4000
Mackie Sound Board 24 Channel 24E Side Board	L12270	\$2000
150 foot Whirlwind Snake with 32 Inputs	J149N-02515X	\$1200
2 - 14" JBL Speakers	J155-025644 & J149N-025154	\$2000
2 - 14" JBL Subs	J155-025644 & J155-025611	\$2000
24 XLR Cables	n/a	\$500
10 Quarter Inch Cables	n/a	\$200
4 JBL Eon 10G2 9" Monitors	10G2-38613, 10G2-38615, 10G2-38614, 10G2-38623	\$2000
Siren Light	n/a	\$40
WA404 Antenna/Power Distribution System	960120027	\$500
WA404 Antenna/Power Distribution System	01511789	\$500
UHF Antenna / Power Distribution	00052932584	\$500
UHF Antenna / Power Distribution	0053336203	\$500